11th January 1954]

Working of the Prohibition Act by the Police department.

* 447 *Q.*—Sri V. GOPALA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) in which districts the working of the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, has been entrusted to the Police department; and

(*b*) whether there is any proposal to extend the experiment to other districts and if so, when and to what districts?

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM:—"(*a*) The enforcement of Prohibition has been entrusted to the Police department in the districts of Coimbatore, Madurai, North Arcot, Salem, Tanjore and Tiruchirappalli;

"(*b*) The Government have under consideration a proposal to entrust to the Police department the enforcement work in all the remaining eight districts of Chingleput, Madras, Malabar, the Nilgiris, Ramanathapuram, South Arcot, South Kanara and Tirunelveli also."

Sri V. GOPALA GOUNDER:—"When will the proposal come into effect in the remaining eight districts?"

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM:—"That has to be decided by the Government."

Sri S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR:—"May I know whether the scheme has succeeded ever since the Police department were entrusted with the enforcement of Prohibition in Madurai district?"

The Hon. Srimathi JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM:—"It has been as good as in other districts, Sir."

Price of paddy in Palghat taluk.

* 448 *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received recently any representation from the Kollengode Congress Committee, Palghat taluk, Malabar district, regarding the abnormal increase in the price of paddy; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"(*a*) No.

"(*b*) Does not arise."

Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI:—"In view of the complete failure of the second crop in Malabar, will the Government consider the desirability of taking immediate steps in the matter to prevent food scarcity in Malabar?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"I have directed the Civil Supplies Commissioner to go to Malabar. He will tour the place, and take note of all problems connected with